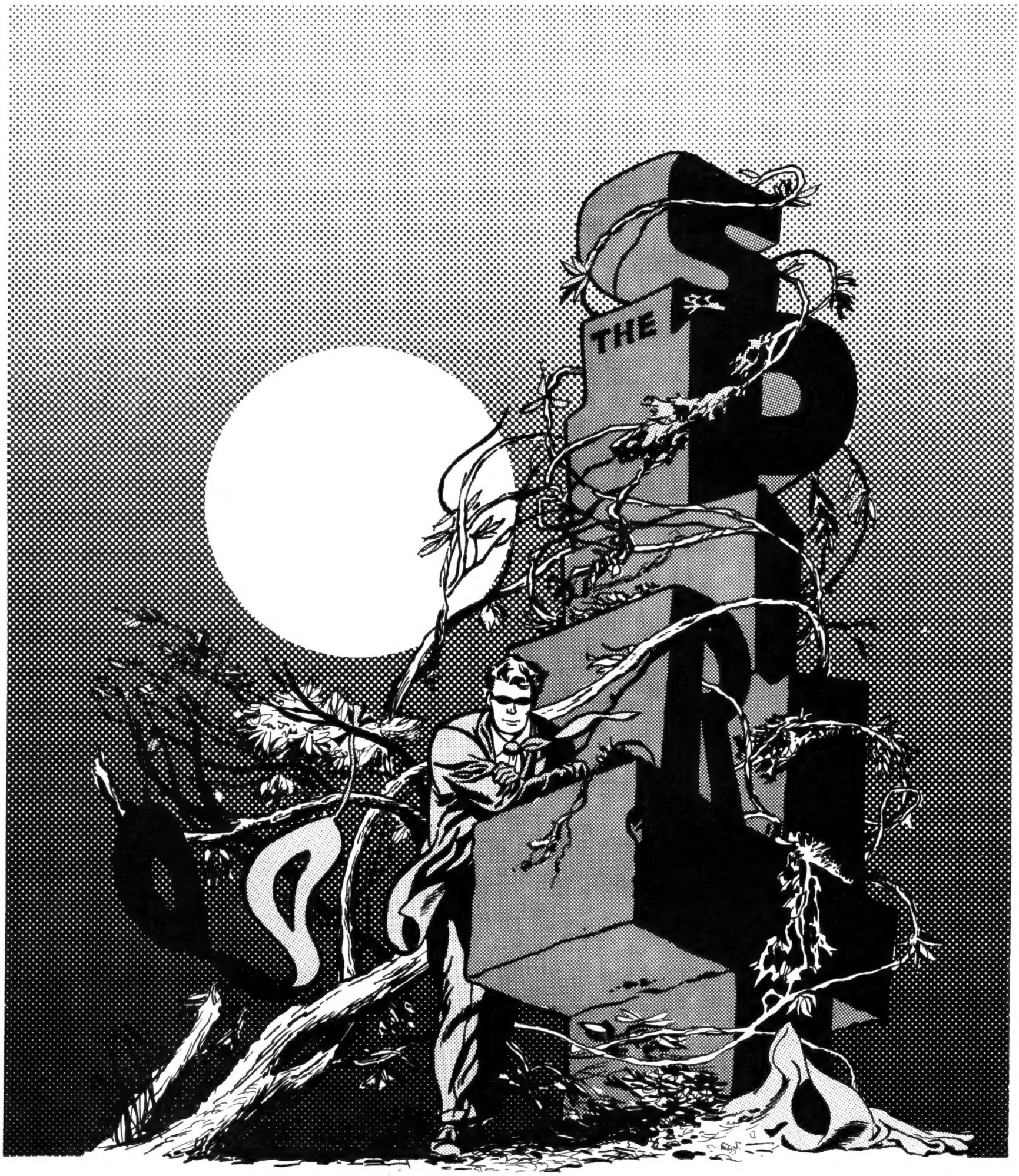
ON THE DRAWING BOARD

volume two · OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC ART FANS & COLLECTORS · number fifteen



created by: will eisner

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Under The Arch

Robert Schoenfeld

The first thing I ought to tell you this month is just why you're getting this 15th issue in the middle of August rather than the middle of July when it was supposed to appear. Reason is that Dave was just too involved with the Academy Convention to come up with either the time or the money. This sorta thing bothers both of us--you readers and me. It bothers you to skip a month...and it bothers me to have to have to ask Dave for money to print this thing up. That, my friends, is why action must be taken to provide us with funds from the Academy treasury. But enough on that... it's all in this month's Academy Forum.

A personally iritating thing about missing last month's ish was that we of the Gateway Club were rather counting on that ish for some Con propaganda and, as a result, we were forced to call off the Con. The fault lies in our waiting so long to begin our ad campaign... but we're not gonna make that mistake again. We'll be running ads beginning either this month or next up til Con time next year. Another maddening thing here was that Roy Thomas had called from New York to say that he would be able to attend. It really hurt (as you can imagine) to tell him it was off. But to my surprise, Roy decided to come in anyway just to renew old friendships. So, to take the place of the Con, we all had this big fan party...lots a' fun.

Before anyone asks... there's no special reason for the Dubay illo in the center of this page...I just thought it might bring some much-needed attention to this page. You'd be amazed at the number of people who will have been reading OTDB for months only to pop up with a question like "How much is a 12 issue sub?" or "How do I join the Academy?" or even "I'm being shipped overseas--what will OTDB cost me then?" Common, guys--take a look at that info in the little area under this editorial--you might learn something!

Last ish I got kinda carried away with the prospect of a wrap around OTDB. A few days after #14 was sent to the printer in Minneapolis, I got a call from them (which I thought was very nice) telling me that I had goofed up the proportion and that it would have to have it done on seperate pages. I'm kinda sick of collating and stappling at the moment ('specially after 80 pages of Gosh Wow!) and I'm making sure that this issue comes off wrap-around! To kick off the new format, we have what I consider to be one of--if not the very finest of fan covers ever to grace a zine. Our fondest thanks to Dick Memorich for taking time out of a darn busy schedule to help us out!

Last ish, as you know, was duplicated at a new printer. It seems that, among other things, I neglected to state what weight of paper I wanted and they gave me a 60 pound stock. This raised the weight of the mag putting it on the borderline of costing 5 or 10¢ to mail. We decided to gamble (playing on the PO's inconsistancies) and we seem to have won out in most cases. However, we would like to apologize to anyone who's copy arrived postage due. It won't happen again.

Hey! Guess what! I finally got Gosh Wow! out! In fact, in a way we're kinda lucky about not having a July OTDB because the break gave me some much needed time to do it. And boy, it was a job, too! Anyway, I'm hoping you'll all drop me a few lines on what you thought of it...and I've no sympathy for those of you who never did buy it. You can't say I didn't warn you! But, for those of you who have to learn the hard way...there are still plenty of copies left...(hint).

I'm getting lots and lots of letters from fans who are all up-tight over having missed the King Packs. Now there really isn't a darn thing I can do for you guys except to tell you to subscribe. Bill Harris has a new subscription deal going whereby you receive not just the individual comic books, but the entire pack (and, if my memory serves me, they are sent flat--but I'm not positive on that.) Subscribers now have their copies of Flash Gordon #6 (#5 being the first ish to appear in the packs. Also, if you will recall, many fans missed out on copies of #4--and Dave has copies of these for anyone who missed them at 25¢ each. These are sent flat and I believe there is a limit of one to a costomer. His address is down below in the colophon.

Some time back I discussed the possibility of a fanzine devoted entirely to reprints of articles on comics appearing in our various news media around the country. Well, I turned this over to another Gateway Cluber...but it turns out that getting permission on these is harder than we anticipated. It is not so much that the owners don't want to give permission as it is the time it takes them to reply. We'll continue to work on it though, and we'll let you know if anything breaks.

I often get letters from fans asking what I think on such-and-such a matter in regards to the Academy...and I get some letters commenting on my editor's notes. After viewing letters in the last few issues I couldn't sit back any longer...and I decided to have my say. I hope no one will take umbrage at any of my comments because they are precisely how I feel on these matters. They are not directly on any one side or the other because I don't feel anyone side is entirely in the right. As a matter of fact, I happen to agree with Gabe Eisenstein on the foolishness of trying to break this thing down into camps to begin with. I have a lot of respect for Dave...and I have a lot of respect for Don. I think they both have good ideas...but I like to think that some of my own ideas have merit. If I begin to get a little strong at times I hope no one will take anything personal in it. If you were to meet me in person you'd realize that that is just the way I am. I have very strong feelings on many subjects...and the Academy happens to be something I'm fond of and, as a result, I've strong feelings on that too.

On The Drawing Board (formerly The Comic Reader), Volume 2, Number 15, Whole Number 62, August 1967. The official newsletter of The Academy of Comic Art Fans and Collectors. (To join, send $2 to David Kaler, Box 392, Cooper's Station, NY, NY. 10003.) Published monthly by the Gateway Comic Art Fan Club; editor: Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114. Phone: 314-429-0490.

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News credits for this month go to Larry Brody, Bruce Williams, Bob Latona, and Bill Martin.
Art Credits are signed within at the illustrations.
News should be sent to Dave Kaler for verification.

Advertising is no longer accepted until further notice.
Deadline for next issue: August the 1st.

Back issues: 7, 8, 10-14 at 25¢@; 30¢@ sent flat. Orders of five or more issues go flat at 25¢@. Copies of TCR 45 and 46 are also available at 50¢@ sent flat. #9 sold out

WHAT'S NEWS

DAVE KALER

This feature article will be somewhat of a departure from my usual column in order to inform fans of the many startling developments in the comics industry. You might call this a "State of the Industry" report. I hope this report will shed some light on certain facents of the industry than fandom in particular would prefer to overlook in their criticisms of the idustry; try to see it from the publisher's point of view.

1966 seemed to bring with it the promise of a new "Golden Age of Comics" for both the publishers (in sales reports) and fans (in new and better books) because of the sudden intrest shown by television. More people than ever before became aware of comics through their TV on shows like Batman and the Marvel Super Heroes. But while sales were high for established companies like Marvel and National, the super-groth and large sales reports expected never really materialized.

Many other companies, older ones already established and newer ones just being born, counted on this sudden "boom" in comics to establish themselves in the industry. But their entrance was badly timed and proved not as financially profitable as they thought it would be.

Tower and Milson have both suffered great losses in revenue as a result of having staked sales in the 25¢ magazines. Tower, with its imaginative plans for a series of 25¢ers, has been forced to drop these books after one or two issues. All the material scheduled for the single books will appear in their one last adventure book, THUNDER Agents. But this book is soon slated to pass away as advertisers are having their money and ads returned with a notice of non-acceptance. The one teen title may remain, but that would be all. * Milson had counted on the camp/super hero fans to come all out and buy Fatman, but they never expected that their wrap-around binding would cost them a small fortune in sales losses. Dealers all over the country returned the Fatman and Super Green Beret books without ever putting them on the stands. The dealers complained that when mixed with the 12¢ books, the 25¢ers could not be told apart, and money is lost. With the square spine in use by Marvel and DC the dealer can distinguish one book from the other. The Milson people have learned their lesson and the books currently in preparation will have the spine. This has forced some delays on their scheduling, though and the titles won't reach the stands until some later date. * All of this increase in 25¢ comics has proven one thing to the industry: when an established character such as Spiderman or Batman is placed in a 25¢ format, he sells. But when a never-before-introduced character is placed in a 25¢ format (eg, the Spirit or Fighting American) your comic buyers (and we know who they are) tend to prefer spending their money on two 12¢ mags rather than one 25¢ one. This is rather sad for fandom for while 25¢mags are a bit harder on everyone's pocket, you usually did get more than your share of pages...I keep recalling those 15¢-90plus pagers of the '40s..!

King came out with several new titles featuring their world-famous newspaper strips. In foreign countries sales were high because the strips are so well known there. But in America--the land that produced such greats as Flash Gordon, the Phantom and Mandrake sales were good but not impressive. Too many American readers have missed the adventures of these heroes for too many years. Moreover, many stands throughout the country will handle only code-approved publications and many dealers refused to handle the early King titles.

So, in an effort to boost sales, King came up with the new package distribution system. While fans did not like the method, it proved to sell more comics than ever before! Sales are going up and up...and King has just signed a contract with a super market distributing firm to handle sales of the packs all over the nation. Furthermore, King has returned to their old method of distribution at this time and their books will once again show up on stands from which they disappeared. Local stores in the past few weeks have begun to display the packages while stands are including them with loose mags.

If you still cannot find the King comics, tell your local distributor to get them out where you can buy them. Talk to your local store owner and ask him to order them from his distributor. Don't write King as they can't get the books out on the stands unless your local distributor asks for them.

Charlton under Dick Giordano began to push new books out onto the stands and making a climb for the top. However, Giordano was riding on the super hero trend and while sales are up, Charlton is still not making money on their books. As a smaller company, they cannot afford a national sales staff of the sort employed by Marvel or National. Furthermore, distributors are still reluctant to order new titles or even the old ones which proved to be poor sellers at one time. Big changes are due in the Charlton line-up and the full story follows this article.

While not stricktly a comic book, the Warren horror mags are riding high and two new magazines, a hippy teen book called Freakout and a love comic, have been added to the Warren line-up. Warren is riding high on the two horror books, as I said, and is trying to expand into other potentially commercial areas. The only big change here is that Bill Harris is now the head of the Creepy and Eerie titles. Archie Goodwin has been overcome by work demands by the newspaper syndicates and has to devote most of his time to writing such strips as Secret Agent X-9 and Captain Kate. However, Archie will also be doing some scripting for Marvel in days to come.

Fans of ACG will be saddened to know that this company no longer exists. This line of horror/supernatural books has been around since the late '40's and has recently closed shop and Richard Hughes, editor and chief writer, is now out free lancing for other companies. The only comics they are still putting out at this time are promotional mags for private industries. If a new tend toward comics appears in the industry, the ACG people may enter the field again.

Radio and Dell are both dropping their hero books and will stick to the formats that have been making them money for so long. The last issue of Mighty Comics for a good while was #50. Radio will offer only the teen-age and spoofy hero titles. Dell will remain in the market as long as their contracts will TV and movie producers hold out. After these expire, Dell may not issue any books at all.

Gold Key was one of the first companies to feel the bite on the purse strings and take measures to build new sales. The Tarzan titles were given a new artist and writer and a TV tie-in series was added to the run of titles that now use the Burroughs books as a source for their adventures.

Even the leaders of the industry have been in trouble lately. Both National and Marvel have embarked on some new and drastic measures to pick up their sales which just did not materialize last year. Sales were off as much as 10 per cent during several months of last year. Full details on staff and production changes within these companies follow this article.

The changes at Marvel...

Books are really flying at Marvel at this time. There will be changes of one kind or another in most all of the books save the solid titles like FF, Spider-Man, Daredevil and Sgt. Fury.

Shortly there will be some minor changes in the double-feature books. The Hulk and Dr. Strange will share one book. Shield and Captain America will share one book. This leaves Iron Man and Submariner in a book together with Namor being cut to 10 pages. Tales of Asgard has already been dropped and will be replaced with tales of the Inhumans beginning with the origin.

The membership of the Avengers will once again be changed by dropping of some of the members. Within the next few months the line up may be cut to include only Goliath, Wasp, Hawkeye and the Black Widow with Hercules thrown in for good measure. Captain America will

still have his own strip while the Scarlet Witch and Quick-silver will be working with the X-Men awhile and then with other characters. The X-Men will soon begin a series of origin stories on the individual members and if this goes over well you may see some short, solo adventures of its members. This would give the mag something of a Doom Patrol look. Also look for a costuming change for the X-Men as each character gets his own, distinctive atire.

New books will be added to the Marvel line-up just as fast as artists and writers can be found to work them. The one new book of this year, Ghost Rider, while making some nice comments from fandom has not made it in sales. He will be dropped from his own book with #7 and will be resigned to the second feature in the back of some of Marvel's other western . The first weeks of October will bring another new book to the stands from Marvel. Old time fans will (again) be startled at the mag's name...but the concept certainly seems like the natural thing for the Marvel format. I don't have all the particulars such as costume or powers, but you can bet that this book will cause somewhat of an uproar in the industry. * January may again bring a new title from Marvel--with the Hulk being the most likely cantidate, in view of sales and popularity with younger fans. If the Hulk does make his own book, there will be a gap left in his old title that may well be filled by The Silver Surfer or Black Panther from FF. I would not count on the Panther, however, as the use of a Negro in such a position is not the most commercially feasable sales-wise.

The only other change is that Fantasy Masterpieces will soon be featuring a new super hero along with the reprint material it currently runs. This may again be a costumed do-gooder with powers and action...or it may just be that character hinted at getting his own book before. Rumors fly at Marvel with little substantiation being given until they actually hit the stands.

The changes at National...

National has put Carmine Infantino in charge of all art production at that company and he has been busy interviewing new and old artists all the time in order to get them back on the staff. Such pros as Kubert, Oskner and Orlando will be doing more work for National.

Neil Adams, former artist of the Ben Casey strip (he's only 24 yrs old, incidentally), has joined the National staff. He has been doing work on Jerry Lewis and Bob Hope for the last few issues and will be taking over the art chores on Deadman in Strange Adventures. Deadman will appear bi-monthly...but Adams' art will also be found on the Spectre starting with #2. He will will also be doing a lot of cover work and some of it can already be seen in the Superman family. Also, in regards to that Spectre book, Murphy Anderson is only available now for limited work as a cover artist at this time.

The shifting of Infantino to this new position means that he will be doing very little in the way of interior comic book art from now on. The next few issues of Flash and Detective are the last with Infantino interiors. His art will be seen on the covers for which he will be doing all the layouts...plus the fact that he will be doing a bit of the writing at DC.

Ross Andru takes over the pencils on the Flash series soon with Esposito doing the inks. You will probably remember this team of artists as the one responsible for Metal Men and Wonder Woman. National likes what they have done on the Flash and hopes that the readers will too.

Sid Greene will be doing more inking jobs now on the Batman and Atom strips. This is because Gil Kane will replace Carmine on Detective...doing the pencils.

Wonder Woman takes on another new look with the art of Irv Novick who will also do Teen Titans. Cuidera and Dillon have been busy on Hawkman for some time now and while the first issue was not fantastic, the latter oneswill look much better. Richard Hughes is doing some Hawkman stories for George Kashdan.

Jack Miller is trying out several new ideas in the pages of Strange Adventures with Deadman being the first of these. Murray Boltinoff has Nelson Bridwell working on a new feature character scheduled to go into the pages of Tales of the Unexpected. And Bob Kanigher has been working on a new humor strip...but as yet no artists or writers have been assigned to it.

The changes at Charlton...

Dick Giordano has been frantic this summer trying to figure out just what to do with his books. They have been selling well, but not strongly enough to warrant their continuance on the market. So, following directions from his superiors--the powers that be in the publishing world--four titles will be dropped. Fans have seen the last of Captain Atom, Peacemaker Thunderbolt and Go Go. These characters will, however, be held until new ideas appear on the stands where they could be used as secondary features. In time, Blue Beetle and Judo-Master may join this list as Giordano would like to get away from super heroes completely.

Dick Giordano is looking for a new trend in the industry on which to base the introduction of new books. He would like to add to the current line-up a new, 2nd Showcase type book with a fantasy/science fiction bend and a new detective title. He is recomending these ideas to the publisher and hopes that he will be given the go-ahead.

Giordano is also looking into licenses on television properties in hopes of getting a few for Charlton. They now have the rights to Abbott and Costello cartoon series and hope that the hip-humor and art will please the fans.

Material on hand for the super hero titles will be held and eventually used. There are some costumed adventure heroes scheduled for the Premiere book at this time. Other characters have been talked about... Nightshade being one of them. And, too, there is still a chance that the now defunct characters will pop up in one shots or the showcase titles.

THAT WHAM-O BOOK!

During the past month, the Wham-o people have been running a trial sales campaign on their "Giant Comics" in the city of Omaha. If sales reports are good, a nation-wide sales campaign will be started this month and the book, as they call it, will begin to be sold in toy stores or toy depts. of larger stores.

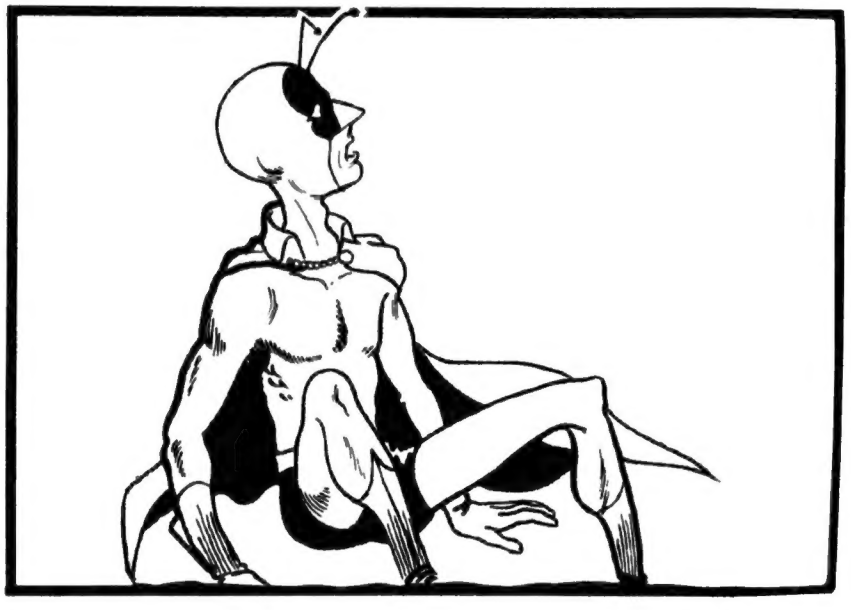
Basically the book is really a giant in that it measures 15" x 22" and resembles a hard-covered newspaper when folded. It has 52 newspaper size pages which includes the cover...and it sells for 98¢. While the book is filled with original material, the book is also very clumsy to handle and will no doubt present somewhat of a storage problem to many fans.

Many fine names are represented in the pages of this book. Some are already well-known to fandom, while others are pros who were prolific in comics at one time but have been conspicuous by their absense over the years.

Wally Wood is here with a super hero strip called Radian and a funny strip called "Goody Bumpkin". Of these two strips, the humor shows more promise as Radian is another of those heroes formed from the good ol' "freak of science" type accident. Bumpkin, on the other hand is delightful and Wally Wood has presented some not only marvelous art but a fine, humorous script. (I understand Paramount pictures have approached Wally on this strip with the possibility of making an animated cartoon out of it.)

Lou Fine, long remembered for his excellent work for Quality during the 40's and his recent newspaper strip, "Peter Scratch", also has two strips in this issue. One is an sf story involving an idol that comes to life to aid the men who've found it. However, his second strip, "The Wooden Sword," is much better. It takes place during the time of the Roman Empire and deals with Gladiators. Using larger-than-normal panels and fine detail, Fine has created an effect not unlike Prince Valliant.

Other artists included are Tufts, Vinson, Ito, Ellefson, Partch and many more. These names are mentioned here as they have signed their work...other don't. The stories are more often sf oriented...space vehicles... or funny shorts and spoofs. The variety is there, if not the quality. This is only the first issue...the best may be yet to come. Support it.



COMICS ON TV

By now, anyone who cares is aware of the large number of comic book characters that are scheduled to appear on TV during the fall season on Saturday mornings. Surprisingly enough, someone up there is looking easily upon you for there will be little or no competition for time spots and fans will be able to watch both the new Hanna-Barbera marvel serieses and the National JLA characters.

If you're a purist, don't even consider watching these shows because--if nothing else--your fellow members of fandom are gonna get sick of your complaints as to how horribly your favorite heroes have been treated. These shows will not have much bearing on...or relation to...the comic. The Networks feel that all cartoon animated shows are aimed at children and the stories will be primarily violence...action, fights, etc. Stan Lee has said that they have given up any hope of controlling the direction that their strips go through to appear on TV. They did try to keep the first series of Marvel cartoons in check but found it an impossibility and gave it up. That is why they are doing new sequences for the syndicated show that did not appear in the comics previously. Furthermore, you may find Reed Richards and the Thing spouting dialog to which you are unacustomed as a result of H-B's attempts to have the show relate to such a young audience.

National has an easier time of it because they do all their own writing from their offices. But they have still been ordered by the Network Chiefs to keep the plots simple and not to work in too many sf effects or creatures that would be hard to animate. There will be changes brought into the National comics as a result of the material written into the cartoon series...but these will not be drastic.

STRIPPINGS

Many times, in running news for OTDB, we mention various newspaper strips to fans. Most of these are new strips and they will usually begin their careers in a small number of papers--leaving many fans who would like to collect these strips out in the cold. Following is a listing of newspapers around the country and the comics they carry. Subscription rates are included for fans who might wish to subscribe. If you would like to see this column continued, please supply us with the same information about your own local paper. Please use a 3 x 5 card for all information.

oOo

Allentown Morning Call, 101 N. 6th St; Allentown, Pa. 18105. Weekdays: $24.64 a year (divide for shorter subscriptions.) Featuring: Secret Agent X-9 (Williamson/Goodwin), David Crane, Jeff Cobb, Debbie Deere (Frank Bolle of Dr. Solar), the Jackson Twins, Joe Palooka and Mark Trail.

oOo

The Lowell Sun, 15 Kearney Square, Lowell, Mass. 01852. $30 a year--$3.00 per month. Featuring: Robin Moore (Bob Lubbers), Johnny Hazard (Frank Robbins), B.C., Pogo, Rick O'Shay and Carol Day.

oOo

Newark Evening News, 215-221 Market Street, Newark, NJ. 07101. Daily: $21.00 yearly--Sundays: $10 yearly--Featuring: Steve Canyon, Batman, Steve Roper, Hi and Lois, Gordo, Apartment 3-G, The Phantom, Buck Rogers.

oOo

Jersey Journal, 30 Journal Square, Jersey City, NJ. 07093. $15 a year. Featuring: Captain Kate, Mandrake, Phantom, Frontiers of Science, Peanuts, Miss Peach, and Andy Capp.

oOo

Asbury Park Press, $35 a year, Press Plaza, Asbury Park, [illegible] 07712. Featuring: full page Prince Valliant, Tarzan, Terry and many other humor strips.

oOo

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 710 N. 12 St; St. Louis, Mo. [illegible] $30 a year. Featuring: Dick Tracy, Brenda Starr, [illegible], Terry, Gasoline Alley, Peanuts, Batman, Dondi, [illegible] Annie, Mark Trail, Mary Worth, and Captain Kate.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1133 Franklin Ave; St. Louis, Mo. 63101. $33 a year. Featuring: Steve Canyon, Hi and Lois, Gordo, Rex Morgan, Juliet Jones and Steve Roper in black and white. Featuring: Li'l Abner, Andy Capp, Dr. Kildare, Beetle Bailey, Pogo, Patrick and Buz Sawyer in full color (including hues of green as per Sunday comic sections.)

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NOTES: Most newspapers will send a sample copy for 25¢ or so. It is advisable to mark envelopes "subscription Department" as newspapers are usually large operations and mail can be easily lost.

Late Notes & Notices

Bruce Williams informs me that if you have missed the ABC-TV comic book that was put on the stands just a few weeks ago, that copies can be obtained by sending 25¢ to ABC-TV Preview, Box 20, Detroit, Michigan.

From Bob Latona comes word that the World Retrospective of Animation Cinema will be held at Expo '67, this summer, from August 13-18 (you will have missed it by the time this appears). The focal point of the program will be an international meeting of animation film-makers, restircted to professional animators only. The retrospective itself will present an extensive selection of the best European and American schools of animation as well as a showing of "Golden Age" masterpieces from 1906-1940. From America, among those attending will be Chuck Jones and John Hubley. A number of European fans will be present, including Francis Lacassin of GIFF-WIFF and Luis Gasca, author of "The Comics on the Screen". Special tribute will be paid to six golden-age pioneers, all of whom, except Mr. Fleischer, will be present at the festival: Max Fleischer, John R. Bray, Paul Terry, Walter Lanz, Ub Iwerks, and Otto Messmer. Public showings will be in the afternoon.

In perusing the book stores, I have discovered that the All In Color For a Dime series from Dick Lupoff's now-defunct fanzine XERO is now available for orders. Just when the book will appear, I know not for Don Thompson, who is editing it, still has the manuscripts. However, it is published by Advent and costs $6. This will be well worth the price for not only are original copies of XERO hard to locate, but they're kind of costly, too. This series featured articles by Don, Roy Thomas, Dick himself, Richard Kyle and others.

Recent changes of address:

*Steve Perrin, 1151 Post St; Apt. 2; San Francisco, Calif. 94109.

*Larry Brody, Old Gold Court; Apt 22; Iowa City, Iowa. 52240.

I have been informed by Jeff Gelb, editor of Men Of Mystery, that that zine has been discontinued. Copies of #3 can still be purchased for 35¢ to 125 Glen Ellyn Way, Rochester, NY. 14618. Material originally scheduled to appear in #5 will appear in other fanzines and said material has already been distributed.

EDITOR'S NOTICE:

I would like, at this time, to offer my personal apologies to you readers for the appearance and confused content of this issue. The layout and editing are anything but as good as they should have been and the entire issue is a huge rush-job and, umfortunately, looks it. Dave was late in sending the news this month and, what with my own summer job, I was rushing like crazy to paste up all the pages I could before the news came in order to speed the issue out. This is not the way to layout a fanzine, and hence, things are not as orderly as they could or should be. Furthermore, time being horribly scarce for me this summer, my editing job on this issue's text is probably bad, too.

Never the less, Dave informs me that--everything going right--the next issue should be out sooner than you think. I myself just hope that the new wrap-around printing, coupled with our fantastic cover and unique news report can make up for the slopy editing and layout.

I regret, too, that limitations of space and time (plus the rushed layout) have forced us to span the lley ward results over two issues. This is NOT Dave's fault, but my own. However, I myself will not have the results until next month's news comes in--so please don't ask. Fanzine editors are free to reprint the results in their publications so long as care is taken to make the reprint accurate. ----Robert Schoenfeld.

FANZINE INDEX

John McGeehan

Explanation--
In order of their appearance: title, latest issue, date received, number of pages (number of blank pages), address, printing process, price folded (flat), rating number. "as" is an ama strip. "ERB" is an Edgar Rice Burroughs fanzine.

Rating System--
(5) a zine worth any fan's money.
(4) for all but the most discriminating fan.
(3) an average zine for purchase after 4s & 5s.
(2) for fans with charitable or masochistic tendancies.
(1) for completists, friends, and parents.

---J U L Y---

Amazine Masters Presentations 3--May 31, 24pgs, Steven Fritz, 2822 McClave Drive, Doraville, Ga. 30040. Ditto, 25 (5), 3.

Arua (formerly Smasheroo Comics) 4--June 13, 50pgs, Rich Flinchbaugh, RD #1, Box 403, Senca, Pa. 16346. Ditto, 25(10), 2. As stated by the editor himself, this is no longer a comics fanzine. Latest issue contains much poetry and art all of a fantasy/SF nature. I'm not much on poetry...but if this sounds like your bag, at least give it a try.

Batmania Annual 1--May 29, 40(1)pgs, Bill White, 1812 Jackson St; Columbia, Mo. 65201. Mimeo, 60(0), 4. This zine revolves around Batman and his offshoots.

Blood & Thunder 6--June 20, 62(1)pgs, Lon Mitchell, 4340 Berwich, Toledo, Ohio 43612. Ditto, 40(10). This zine contains non comic-oriented pulp fiction and one super hero ama strip. 3.

Bombshell Ama-zine 8--June 20, 62(1)pgs, Tony Rutherford, 1046 Jackson Ave; Huntington, WVa. 25704. Ditto, 40(10), 3.

Capt. BilJo's Collectors' Item Comics 1--May 29, 60(1)pgs, Bill White, 1812 Jackson St; Columbia, Mo. 65201. Ditto, $1.00(0) in trading material--no money accepted. Consists of as reprints from Bill's past publications.

Cinemania 1--June 26, 20pgs, Chas. Jackson, 349 "A" W. Garfield, Glendale, Cal. 91204. Ditto, 20(10), 2.

Collector, The 1--June 19, 4pgs (5½ x 8½), Bill Wilson, 1535 Oneida Dr; Jefferson Boro, Clarrton, Pa. 15025. Litho, 15(10), nothing of intrest here at all except for the offset repro which does nothing for the useless contents.

Comic Comments 14--June 19, 10pgs, Wayne Dewald, 671 E. 15th Place, Hialeah, Fla. 33010. Mimeo, 5¢ stamp, 4.

Comic Fandom 1--June 27, 42(1)pgs, Chas. Korbas, 169 E. Main St; Dryden, NY. 13053. Ditto, 35 plus an 8¢ stamp (no flat mailing.) /Part of John's page was accidentally cut off at this point so there are no comments or rating number./

Dangling Conversation, The 3--June 15, Esser/Coddington DCTC. Copies are still unavailable to all who might want them, so no other info will be given.

Dateline: Comicdom 23--June 24, 26(1)pgs, Bob Greene, 545 Cleveland Ave; South Bend, Ind. 46628. Ditto, free to ama artists, writers or publishers, 5.

Ecco 1--June 6, 40(15)pgs, Randy Williams, Box 581 Liberty, No. Carolina27298. Mimeo, 50(10), 3 to fans who like the diversified coverage of comics, films, monster and other material. 2 to strict comic fans.

Epix 1--June 19, 8pgs, John Buccafusco, 136 Prospect St; Jersey City, NJ. Ditto, free to members of Adventure Heroes Club--not worth it to others.

ERB Digest, The 1--June 7, 60pgs (5½ x 8½), Al Tompkins, Box 5465, GPO, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. (American fans should contact Jeremy Barry, Box 5301, China Lake, Cal. 93555 for price.) ERB, litho, 5.

ERB-dom 20--June 22, 16(0)pgs, Camile Cazedessus, Box 585, Breckenridge, Colo. 80424. ERB, Litho, 50(0), 5.

Fandom Onium 1--June 20, 32(1)pgs, Alan McCaughan, 621 Ivy, Glendale, Cal. 91204. Mimeo, 35(10), 2.

Fan Scene 2--May 31, 20pgs, Don Dagenais, 913 N. 4th St; Atchison, Kans. 66002. Xerox, 25(10), 2.

Fantastic Fan Fiction 37--June 27, 10pgs, John Lebar, 305 N. Jordan St; Allentown, Pa. 18102. as, Ditto, 2 issues for 15¢, 1. Forget it.

Futura. Danny Cassidy, 5514 Norde Dr; Jacksonville, Fla. 32210. Futura is now defunct and Cassidy has promised to refund subscriptions to fans who bought more than one issue. If you did not get your copy of #8, it can currently be gotten from him.

Heroes Hangout 5--June 1, 14pgs (5½ x 8½), Rudy Franke, 3413 Mt. St. Helena Dr; San Jose, Cal. 95127. Litho, 20(10), 4. Rudy has fine layout, presentation and printing, but persists in using material of an un-original nature.

Heroic 2--June 12, 46pgs, Tony Rutherford, 1046 Jackson Ave; Huntington, WVa. 25704. Ditto, 30(10), 3.

Irving Forbush Gazette, The 2--June 15, 24(3)pgs, Marshall Lanz, 1041 Lindberg Ave; Penn Hills, Pa. 15235. Ditto, 25(10), 2. If you've read the Rothermich/Thomas Blackhawk article in Alter Ego 8, the only thing of intrest here is a two pager on how to save Star Trek and a lot of ads.

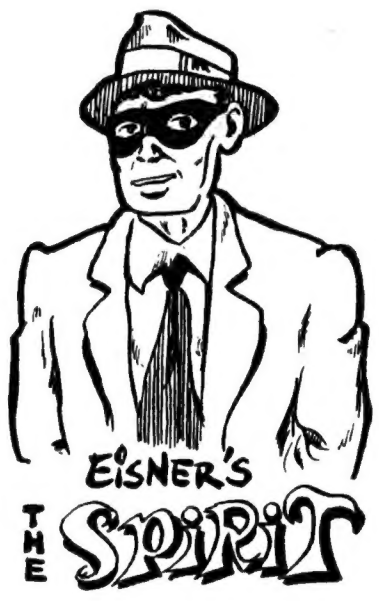
Journey Into Comics 1--June 30, 16pgs, Paul LeGrazie, 250 Garth Rd; Scarsdale, NY. 10583. as, Litho, 25(10),2.

K-Alpha 32--June 15, 70(2)pgs, distributed by Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd; Mentor, Ohio 44060. Ditto/Mimeo/Litho, membership required, 5.

Lux 2--May 31, 14pgs, Don Dagenais, 913 N. 4th St; Atchison, Kans. 66002. Xerox, 25(10), 2.

Marvel Mania 7--June 15, 36pgs, Dan Dowell, 5729 Ammons, Fort Worth, Tex. 76117. Ditto, 25(10), 3.

1966 Academy Con Booklet, June 2, 20pgs (5½ x 8½), Litho. Sent free to the first 100 persons joining the Academy in '67.



Rocket's Blast-Comicollector, The 52--June 30, 52pgs, Gordon Love, 9875 SW 212 St; Miami, Fla. 33157. Litho, 60(10), 5. Ad-zine.

Sanctum 7--June 2, 34(1)pgs, Steve Johnson, 1018 N 31st. St; Corvallis, Ore. 97330 . Mimeo, 25(10), 3.

Symbol, The 9--June 20, 38pgs, Lynn Wooley, 1609 S. 35 St; Temple, Tex. 76501. Mimeo, 35(0), 3.

Thrilling Newsletter 2--June 26, 12(1)pgs, T. Rutherford, 1046 Jackson Ave; Huntington, WVa. 25704. Ditto, 10(10), Worth acquiring by those who would like to keep track of Rutherford's and other DCTC fanzines.

World of Comic Art, The 4--May 31, 60pgs, WofCA Pubs, Box 507, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250. Litho, $1(0), 5.

Wow 4--June 23, 36(2)pgs, Dan Wicker, 7516 W. Henry Ave. Tampa, Fla. 33615. Ditto, 25(10), 3.

Yoessarrian 1--June 26, 4pgs, Craig Yoe, 560 Mardon Ave; Akron, Ohio 44303. Mimeo, 5¢ stamp. The four pages this consists of are not really worth the cost to other fans as they were done as a contrib to K-a and amount to his comments on several of the better western heroes.

---A U G U S T---

Amazing Masters 4 and Fandom Speaks 1--July 7, 24pgs & 12pgs, Mike Redman, Route 2, Box 172 A, Plainfield, Ind. 46168. FS consists of locs and future issues will contain same plus any short articles that come available. Future issues of FS will cost 10(10), 3.

Comic Emporium 2--July 14, 36(1)pgs, Dan Tomlinson, 377 N. Arroyo Dr; San Gabriel, Cal. 91775. Ditto, 20(10). CE is an adzine with some continued strips.

Comic Examiner, The 5--July 18, 36(3)pgs, Jim Dee, Box 1245, San Luis Obispo, Cal. 93401. Ditto, 25(10), 3.

Conclussion 1--July 18, 22(1)pgs, Mike Robertson, Rt. 1; Box 95, Maple Valley, Wash. 98038. Mimeo, 25(5), 2.

Fanzine Illustrated 4--July 3, 28(1)pgs, John Furek, 1436 1st Ave; Berwick, Pa. 18603. Ditto, 25(10), 3.

Gridley Wave, The 23--July 24, 4pgs, free to members of the Burroughs Bibliophiles. To join, send $2 for a year's dues to Rita Coriell, 6657 Locust, Kansas City, Mo. 64131. ERB, Litho, 5.

K-Alpha 33--July 18, 94(1)pgs, Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Rd; Mentor, Ohio 44060. Membership, 5.

OTDB 14--July 5, 12pgs.

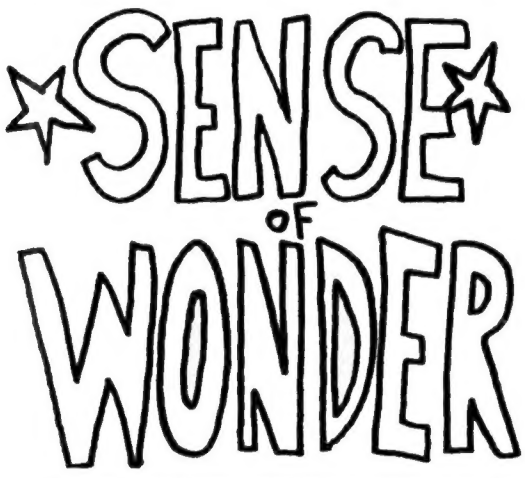
Panel Art Examiner 6--July 18, 24pgs, Marshall Lanz, 10411 Lindberg Ave; Penn Hills, Pa. 15235. Ditto, 25(10), this ish consists of locs and an article on the Shadow. New title--same zine as Graphco & Co., 3.

Sooner Comics 4--July 11, 52(1)pgs, Matt Curtis, 1405 N. Willard, Altus, Okla. 74521. mostly as, Ditto, 40(0), 2.

Star Studded Comics 11--July 5, 36pgs, Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland, Carrollton, Tex. 75006. as, Litho, 50(0), 5. This ish contains one article--Bidgee by J. Ryan.

"What Th..?" 6--July 5, 12pgs, Marvin Wolfman, 142-18 59 Ave; Flushing, NY. 11355. Ditto, 4¢ stamp, 3. This is the last ish by Marvin and the poorest letter-wise. Order future issues from Len Wein, 118 Blue Spruce Rd; Levittown, NY. 11756 for 10(10).

-end-



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Gateway Con II is MORE than just a gathering of fans... its informality would make it more like a party than an actual convention. In place of the formalized panel discussion, we prefer a round-table bull session--with all fans participating rather than a hand full of moderators. In place of costume balls and such we've got hours of great films and serials (including the first Flash Gordon serial staring Buster Crabbe). All comic fans enjoy viewing original art from their favorite books and comic strips...and the walls of the convention room will be covered with some great artwork. Some lucky fans will be going home with several pieces of that art as a door prize. There will be two special souvenir booklets given out and several dealers will be on hand with comics for sale and display.
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ACADEMY FORUM

from the Editor...

Robert Schoenfeld
9516 Minerva Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63114

I have been handling OTDB for over a year now. During that time I've run an average of two and a half letters per issue. Many of the fans whose letters I've printed were former members of the Executive Board--and many of them had excellent comments in regard to the Academy situation. And yet, in thinking back, I realize that so very much has been SAID on the Academy that any more is like a drop in the ocean. This particular letter is primarily an attempt to air my personal feelings in retrospect of the many comments I've seen in OTDB and other zines on the Academy.

The Academy is small now. Pitiffully small. So small in fact that it is not worth anyone's time to bother with it at all, unless it can prove its worth to fandom and thus gain a satisfactory number of new members. For a man like Dave to spend as much time as the job requires for the benefit of less than 100 persons is foolish. I assume, however, that those of you who have not rejoined have not done so because you did not feel it was worth the two dollars asked. I'm not going to debate the per-dollar value here.

Dave has been Executive Secretary for almost two years. That is one year longer than that post is supposed to run. However, I think we all owe Dave a thanks for taking the job a second year because, had it not been for him, there would be neither an Academy or a zine in which to complain about it! Be this as it may, I feel that an election should be held in or around November for next year's ExSecretary. Unless I'm mistaken, Dave has every right to run again...but we should not ignore the due processes involved.

In so far as I'm concerned the old ExBoard does not exist. We have all decided that the old Board will no longer serve our needs--so we must set about to elect a new one. Many fans do not seem to realize just why such a group is needed, but the fact is that I know of no one person in fandom (or anywhere outside of fandom for that matter) who is so brilliant as to require no outside assistance in making perfect decisions. Even the president has advisors--and all this is primarily to create a difference of opinion which, in turn, through debate, should produce a better end product. I believe that this election of the ExBd should be held as soon as possible so that such measures as the allotment of Academy funds for OTDB might be decided quickly. It being rather late in the year now, their terms might run through 1968 as well.

I also believe that the ExBd should not exceed 25 members. The old number of 50 was simply too many and, as we all know, many of these members did nothing. Furthermore, intrests among fans change so fast that it is foolish to have this Board run for two years without change. I feel a one year term is sufficient for all BdMembers--and an annual election should be held in conjunction with the election of the ExecSecretary.

I believe that seperate offices should be established within the ExBd to take some of the load off the president. One member ought to be elected Treasurer and all membership funds would go through him. There ought to be a secretary to handle publication of the Board-only newsletter, and both of these persons should be required to submit monthly reports to OTDB for publication before the membership.

As for the argument as to how necessary a Board-only bulletin is, I can only say that the divergent opinions that would be received if every item went before all members would result in an argument of cataclysmic proportions. You don't believe it?? Well may I suggest that you take a look at the very argument we are currently engaged in (and have been for two long years!!) Rest assured that all important matters will be brought (in one form or another) before the general readership through OTDB.

As far as I know, the announcement about the Who's Who has appeared ONLY in OTDB. Now isn't that a little silly? After all, if we wanted only the information from the readers of OTDB I could simply have turned my subscription files over to Wolfman to re-do. If we are going to do this Who's Who for Gosh Sake, let's do it right! The date due for these cards should be extended to, if necessary, the end of this year. This would allow the announcement to be run in other publications. Money could be taken from the treasury to finance an ad in the RBCC and, perhaps, the printing of a ready sheet for mailing with other publications. By rights, such designation of funds should be done by the Board--but, since there is no Board, and since the WW is an Academy project, I see no reason to let the project stagnate while we elect a Board.

It is my firm belief that the Who's Who should not contain anything EXCEPT for the fans' names, addresses and, possibly, phone numbers. Not only is a fan's marital status and occupation none of anyone elses business, but it is scarcely important information to the rest of fandom. I mean--what difference does it make to me or anyone else if Joe Blow is an accountant or a bank robber? What IS important is having a listing of the members of fandom and their addresses. Furthermore, this bit of comics collected and their years is worthless to fandom as a whole. If I collect Spiderman and I need an issue to complete my set, all I'd have to do would be to look down the list for someone else who has them and presto--I'm all set. But the fact is that this is nothing but free advertising and it is the kind of tedious listing that will make the Who's Who a chore to both the publisher and the reader. If I want that issue of Spiderman, I can go to an ad-zine, by Gosh. Fandom as a whole has no right to cater to individual wants or likes.

I believe that when a fan joins the Academy he should receive--right away--two things: First he would receive a form-letter from the Executive Secretary welcoming him to the organization and explaning it. Secondly he would receive his copy of the Who's Who in order that he could become better acquainted with his fellow fans. Therefore, the Who's Who should be published in sufficient quantity to allow us to keep many on hand for future members. Every two years a new addition should be printed tokeep it up to date.

As for the Alley Awards...there is no doubt in my mind but that a Basic Ballot is an absolute must! Naturally, as time goes on, we will find it necessary to add or withdraw categories in the ballot, but these can be made by the Board when the need arises. I would recomend that the new Board make this one of their first projects in order that it should be serviceable in time for next year's Awards.

This idea of a booby prize in the Alley Awards is personally distressing to me. Can't you just picture the editor of Mighty Comics striding proudly to the platform for being the worst editor ever to ruin a comic? Maybe he has even prepared a modest acceptance speech! No, guys--the best way to "honor" the crud publishers is to simply ignore them.

Over a year ago Wally Wood contacted Derrill Rothermich for two reasons. The first was to announce his forth-coming publication Et Cetera (now called Witzend). The second reason is best summed up in Mr. Wood's own words. I do not have his original letter, but it ran something to this effect: "I have been told by my friend Steve Ditko that the fans have presented me with some sort of award. Steve read this in your publication The Comic Reader. Could you possibly send me this publication or information on same?" Now what kind of nonsense is that?? Wally Wood was voted best pencil artist of 1965 and 2nd best inker of '65. The point is, however, that it is totally absurd for our winners to rely on word of mouth to find out they've won. Some sort of form letter should be sent to winners giving details of the Award and the con at which they are given out.

Dave has initiated the practice of waiting 7 months to release the results of the Awards. I think this is most definitely wrong. Not only is it an unjust attempt to draw attention to the Academy Con, but by the time the results are made known fans will neither remember the previous year's titles nor give a damn. I see no reason why the results cannot be printed in or around March (like last year) and still present the actual awards at the con.

OTDB should always remain the official newsletter of the Academy, and the link to non-member fandom as

well. I recomend that OTDB be sent free of charge to Academy members and at 25¢ per issue to non members. The reason for this is that if a fan can receive not only OTDB for $2, but the Who's Who and any special projects the Academy undertakes (like the new TCR), he will be more than willing to belong to the Academy. In fact, he'd be darn fool not to. As for the non-members, 25¢ a shot is just what OTDB is worth--and after a few months of that price a fan will be glad to join the Academy. Then the Academy will have over 400 members instead of a paltry 72.

Some of you economics students may ask how the Academy could give out what is obviously more than $2 worth of material (under my free-OTDB suggestion) for that price. However, with the regular turn over of expired memberships and new members there will always be a certain amount of moeny coming in--and we mustn't forget the almost $700 we now have in our treasury.

Fanzine discounts should be completely eliminated. OTDB with Academy and pro-fan news is a must, but other zines are too undependable for one thing...and for another (as pointed out by Don Thompson) fans will either want a zine badly enough to pay the going price or they will not want it badly enough to pay ANY price.

Also necessary is this confirmation of the group's name. It should be done for once and eternity by the Board. Once this is done we might have an Academy stationary printed up to add a more business-like look to the group. Such stationary should contain the names and addresses of all officers and committee heads and publishers. Form letters such as those I've mentioned could be printed on this stationary for effect and all official correspondance would be done on them.

Presenting The 1966 Alley Awards

Points are given in accordance with the ratings given to each strip or pro by the fans themselves. Voting is generally higher in areas of comic book material as a result of the difusion of newspaper strips around the country. Many fans either voted in strips they did know or did not vote at all in the newspaper categories.

Best Comic Magazine Section

1. Best Adventure Book With The Main Character Featured In The Title.

Spiderman	390 points
Flash Gordon	250
Thor	210
Green Lantern	203
Magnus	199
Daredevil	177
Tarzan	134
Flash	133
Captain Atom	98
Thunderbolt	96

2. Best Multi-Feature Title.

Tales of Suspense	570
Thunder Agents	413
Tales To Astonish	343
Strange Tales	333
Detective	330

3. Best Super Hero Title.

Fantastic Four	607
The Avengers	380
X-Men	338
Justice League	293
Doom Patrol	262

4. Best Fantasy--Science Fiction--Supernatural.

Strange Adventures	291
Twilight Zone	289
Ghostly Tales	278
Boris Karloff	219
Tales of Unexpected	176

5. Best Western Title.

Kid Colt	267
Two Gun Kid	265
Rawhide Kid	236
Cheyenne Kid	91
Lobo	73
Bonanza	70

6. Best War Title.

Sgt. Fury	366
Our Army At War	333
G.I. Combat	200
Our Fighting Forces	193
All American Men of War	151

7. Humor Titles.

Archie	235
Bob Hope	231
Go Go	190
Costumed	
Inferior Five	426
Plastic Man	346
Herbie	146
Juvenile	
Uncle Scrooge	325
Walt Disney	203
Fox & Crow	102

8. Best Normal Hero Title (this should be #4--sorry)

Mars Patrol	371
Challengers	358
Blackhawks	332
Fightin' Five	264
Sea Devils	188

9. Best All Reprint Title.

Spirit	544
Fant. Masterpieces 4	436
Marv. Super Heroes	326
Flash Annual 21	304
Batman Giant 24	197

10. Best Combination New/Reprint Title.

Fantastic Four Annual	460
Fighting American	408
Spider-Man Annual	370
Thor Annual	233
Fantastic Giants	139
Sgt. Fury	137

Newspaper Strip Section.

1. Best Adventure Strip.

The Phantom	396
Prince Valiant	371
Steve Canyon	217
Mandrake	202
Steve Roper	191
Kerry Drake	162

2. Best Human Intrest Strip.

On Stage	372
Rex Morgan	328
Apartment 3-G	243
Juliet Jones	199
Jackson Twins	143

3. Best Humor Strip.

Peanuts	465
B. C.	321
Wizard of Id	269
L'il Abner	239
Pogo	215

4. Best Humor Panel

Dennis the Menace	308
Mr. Mumm	217
Brother Juniper	207
Better Half	196
Laugh it Off	121

5. Best Misc. Strip.

Jules Feiffer	312
Believe it or Not	256
Mark Trail	196
Our New Age	146
Walt Disney's True Life	132

6. Hall of Fame Award.

Flash Gordon (Raymond)	419
Prince Valiant (Foster)	279
Tarzan (Foster)	221
Tarzan (Hogarth)	219
Buck Rogers (Calkins)	189
Barnaby (Johnson)	47
Spirit (Eisner)	49

7. Best All Time Great Comic Strip.

Flash Gordon	331
Spirit	310
Prince Valiant	198
Peanuts	194
Tarzan	161
Buck Rogers	136
L'il Abner	95
Pogo	80
Rip Kirby	71
Krazy Kat	64

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

on the Academy...

Gabe Eisenstein
1753 Rosemary Rd.
Highland Park, Ill. 60035

As a supporting member of the Academy I guess I ought to state just whose side I'm on in this Kaler-Thompson "debate", but I refuse to do so. This stupid, petty bickering is exactly the kind of thing that is going to keep fandom from going anywhere. Sure Dave has worked hard and hiven of his own time and money, so he's mad when Don, unsatisfied with the way things are going (as are many people), gives his opinions and plans. Neither can appreciate the other's side of the story. So now Dave wants 100 post cards saying "Yea Dave!" so he can thumb his nose at Don. And this is helping the Academy? This is the kind of unorganized mish-mosh that has kept fandom a bunch or arguing children for seven years.

In closing, I have one question. Exactly when are dues due? I think their ought to be a date (like January 1st) when all memberships are renewed. I have been a member for two years on the same two bucks because I "received nothing for my membership" in '66. So when do I pay again? /If it were up to me, Gabe, I would not have seperated you and a few others out as not having received anything in '66 for it is a point of fact that hardly anyone did. Those of you who were singled out by Dave were done so because, if I'm not mistaken, your checks had never been chashed. As for when dues is due, I do not feel that having one date for everyone is very practical. For one thing there may not always be available back issues of the publications released that year and they may not be wanted. Furthermore, by having members rejoin in the month in which they originally joined we will have a continuous income of dues.--Ed./

NoMAN

Jim Rummell
513 Pine St.
Johnstown, pa. 15902

A little Blank Verse here for Dave...

When Dave took over the Academy in the midst of the confusion fans said: "Why doesn't he get busy and do something?"

When Dave needed money for printing costs to keep the Academy magazine going and said that he'd need to take it out of the treasury, they said: "What kind of crook do we have running the Academy?"

When Dave took the money out of his own pocket to make payments, they said: "He should have expected something like that when he took the job."

When the Alley Ballots were sent out and some fans didn't like the ballot they said: "Can't those goof-offs do anything right?"

When Dave started his drive for new members, fans asked: "What'll I get out of it? Two bucks! You're nuts"

Now that many of the Academy's problems have been solved and fans have read about them, we get the reply: "It didn't amount to much work."

When the fans want many different projects involving a lot of work...and the Academy has few workers, they say: "If you can't handle it, QUIT!"

You just can't win, can you, Dave?

Rich Willis
15445 E. Beckner St.
La Puente, Cal. 91744

Don Thompson's letter was very informative to this neophyte, if somewhat lengthy. What he proposes makes a lot of sense. Especially important I feel is that all members should know the Executive Board members. A membership list with a notation by the Board members would fill the bill nicely.

Also desperately important is the annual election for Execuitve Secretary. Not that Dave's not a fine leader and all that, but if we had wanted a kind we'd of had a corronation instead of an election. If a one-year term is considered too short, change the length by due process, not by ignoring it. It is incomprehensible to me why the necessary changes haven't been made and the bugs worked out by this time. What has the Academy been doing for the past five years? Running around like a chicken with its head cut off? /Yes, to one extent or another.-Ed./

I was glad to see Dave's letter and the announcement of the upcoming financial report. But for that, I might not of joined. While I have never believed the suggestions inferred by some to the effect that Dave was living it up on our dues, I do believe that anyone who shells out $2 for a membership has every right to see what becomes of his green-backed life's blood. Then too, these suggestions, while seeming to case doubt on Dave's character, were probably made with the idea of preasuring or shocking just such a report as the one in #14. And, if this be the case, Don did a great service for all. /I do believe, with all respect for Don, that you have hit upon his methods precisely.--Ed./

Glen Johnson
1018 Orchard Dr.
Brigham City, Utah 84302

I agree with you, Bob, and with Wayne Warfield that the discounts should be dropped. As past editor of TCR, I can tell you that not only was the discount plan a lot of added bookwork, but many fans either ignored it or did not understand it.

Dave has slowly reshaped the Academy into a workable group from the ruins it was in. However, my personal beef with his handling has been his methods of working the Alley Awards. I can understand his thinking in wanting to present them to fans at the con, but this simply is not fair to the majority of fandom who has no stake in that con and who have likewise taken part in the voting.

When I read that Don was willing to handle the Alley Awards for next year, my first thoughts were to let him. Once for me on that job was suficient, and I don't doubt that Dave will come to feel the same way. I think that someone will always find something to criticise in the ballot every year--and thus I would agree with Don on the necessity of one basic ballot. However, this form-ballot should be approved by the board as should the person who handles the awards themselves. It is my understanding that the Executive Secretary handles this job unless he wishes to turn it over to someone else.

Bob Cosgrove
58 Massachucets Ave.
Braintree, Mass. 02185

It should be a point of our Charter that no Board member who allows his dues to lapse can retain his position. This way we find that only a few of those persons listed as being among the last Board members are still elgible for re-oletion to the Board.

I see no reason for Don to force Dave to justify the New York Con. The Academy charter specifically asks that a Comicon tradition be set up--and this seems to be just what Dave has done. /Regrettably, Bob, there are many extenuating circumstances that arise over this matter of which you are not aware. Over a year ago, when the matter came up, I received letters from fans who were angered with Dave over the matter of there being two comicons in NY in one year. I mentioned this to Dave and said that if I was to run both sides of the matter I would need his comments. He chose not do get into the matter publically (prefering, I'd guess, to handle it in private with those directly involved) and so I never printed a word of the matter either way. This is what Don was refering to...and take note that neither side in that argument was entirely in the right. --Ed./

I also do not see why Dave has to pay for OTDB or why Don would ask for a vote of the Board to obtain Academy funds for this purpose. Isn't OTDB "The Official Newsletter..."? And doesn't it say in the Charter that the Academy is supposed to publish it? So why doesn't the Academy reimburse Dave or Bob for losses? /While both Dave and I applaud you for coming to our aid on this matter, you should realize that such matters as finances are something over which the group should

have the final say. While no one suspects Dave of dishonesty, who could say but what a future Exec Sec might decide to give money to some crud publisher at the organization's loss! I have no doubts but what the Board would sanction the funds, but we should go through the due processes of obtaining permission. I might mention, too, that the sanctioning of money to OTDB by the organization would prevent our ever having to skip a month of publication for reasons such as those in July.-Ed./

On the newsletter for Board members--I would tend to agree with your statement, Bob, just so long as supporting members get ample oportunity to express their views on significant issues. /Rest assured that while OTDB is the Academy Newsletter its pages will be open to reader comment.--Ed./

In regards to the Alleys I feel that this Hall of Fame award should be brought up in voting every five years or so. /Since this Hall of Fame does not concern current material, I think Bob has a VERY wise suggestion. However, I would recomend that it be lowered to every two years because of the amount of change over that takes place in the ranks of fandom.-Ed./ I must disagree with Don on many other points, however. This matter of the prestige zine (as he refers to it) is one I was of the impression that the new Comic Reader would fulfill the functions of the old one (minus OTDB) and bring to light regional fan activity. Currently we have no publication which fills that function. I also disagree on the matter of profesional contributions. Wally Wood might do an ocassional cover for FI, but when was the last time fandom saw on article by Russ Manning such as the one he did for TCR some years ago on the creation of Magnus? Pros hesitate to contribute to individual fan mags, since it entails a certain amount of refusing many other fan eds. However, a general magazine published by a society of fans allows for no discrimination. The pro is not working for an individual, he is working for the organization which represents all the inidividuals. /A personal experience of my own will bear out Bob's words: Wally Wood did a cover which will appear on Gosh Wow #2 in return for my running his Witzend ad. However, due to the many requests he had for interviews, he was unable to offer me same without discrimination.--Ed./

about O.T.D.B...

Clay Kimball
106 W. Delaware Ave.
Draper, NC. 27241.

I would like to enter a vote against the running of ama strips in OTDB. Asside from the fact that few ama strips are worth running, it must be noted that OTDB is a NEWS zine rather than a strip zine and I would prefer not to see strips of any quality. Perhaps you could use the space for more news or letters or something...but anything would be better than the strips you are now using. Malthus is awful...and if there is one thing I can do without it is Gardner's sophomoric philosophy summed up with a series of obviously rushed drawings. /There is a matter of economics involved here. OTDB can run 12 pg. of material each month for almost as much money as it could run 8pgs. Why then should I not run a strip IF room permits? I print every bit of news I can get. I also print every decent letter I receive. Then, if there is room, I will print a cover, spot illoes, a review column and/or a strip. A cover adds a nice outward appearance, spot illoes break up the monotony of pages and aid in layout, reviews are worthwhile to both fan buyers and fan editors and a strip is good fun. But these have always taken a secondary spot in OTDB and I will never give up news items or good letters in favor of them. As for Malthus...it's out. Jim and I seem to have misunderstood each other in so far as Jim's intent with the strip. I was of the impression that a story was to revolve around Malthus...whereas Jim had something else in mind. All this has rather soured me on the prospect of strips in OTDB...and yet, the one strip I would like to have--The Little Green Dinosaur--I can not seem to get.--Ed./

Pat Draine
203 Main St.
W. Chelmsford, Mass. 01863

I have what I'd consider a possible suggestion for enhancing the Alley Awards. Since we refer to ourselves as "The Academy of Comic Art...", I think we should recognize other art such as the cover paintings on Creepy & Co, and similar paper back book covers, rather than limiting ourselves to strips alone. Some fans might regard this as unfair competition, but I don't feel that is a valid reason for excluding these items. /First...a point of referance: "We" do not refer to ourselves as the Academy of Comic Art..., but I refer to us by that name because I like it better. Since the name has yet to be finalized by vote...I intend to play my favorites since this is my zine (or rather since it is under my direction.) Back in OTDB 6 it was pointed out that people (pros in particular) laugh about our calling ourselves Comic Book fans... and I suggested that the name be changed from "book" to "art" because of the psychological implications (note the name of our local club!)

But to get to your suggestion...I should point out that the items you mention are NOT comic art per se. They are paintings done in oils or water colors, and they are reproduced in a completely different fashion. Now I do not ever recall seeing a definition given to the term comic art, but if I were to offer one of my own it might be "One or a series of drawings used to tell a story or get across a specific point by the use of line sketches." Furthermore, even if we could overlook the inconsistancy of definition we would find this suggestion difficult in that few fans follow paperback books extensively enough to warrant their inclusion in the Alley Awards.--Ed./

from the ex-Ed...

Derrill Rothermich
RA16991777
School Support Commd.
3rd Enlisted Student Brty.
Fort Bliss, Tex. 79916

OTDB was just great again this month and I especially enjoyed Dave's long letter. He did a fine job of answering Don's objections. From where I stand, I can see but one way for the Academy to progress from here. I feel Dave is doing a fine job and that he will do an even better job when we are back on a steady course.

Right now, however, the most important thing is to get the Executive Board operating again. Once this is done all suggestions for the Academy can be discussed and acted upon legally under the Charter. Like you, Bob, I feel that the Board should be cut to 25 members--50 is just too many, particularly in view of the fact that many of the 50 did absolutely nothing anyway. Before Dave goes any further he should run an election for a new Board or begin to utilize the old one. I feel confident that once issues are put before the Board our progress will grow by leaps and bounds.

I suggest that we...

Reafirm Dave as President for the upcoming year through election.

Affirm Bob Schoenfeld and the Gateway Club as publishers of the Academy newsletter.

Authorize Dave to support OTDB through Academy funds.

Cut the Board from 50 to 25 members.

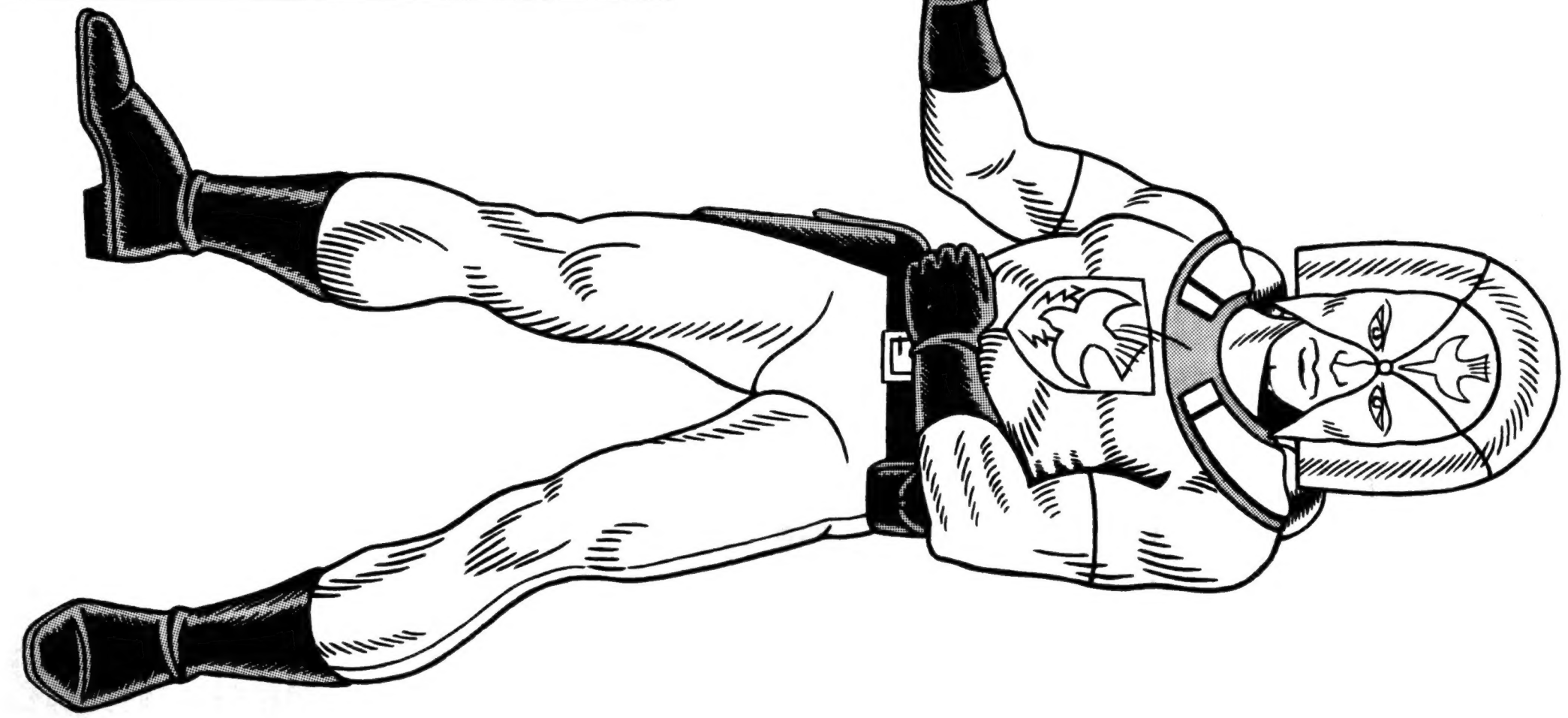
Accept nominations for the election of the Executive Board of 1968 now so has to have a functioning committee in the fall.

If Unforewardable, Return To:

Robert Schoenfeld
9516 Minerva Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63114

First Class!

Peacemaker



KEN KELLER '67